

Claims

1. An apparatus comprising:

a vacuum filler (3) for stuffing a casing (4) of any kind with a pasty substance and a clip module (1) for applying a clip (2) to a stuffed casing (4), **characterized in that** the clip module (1) is adapted to be driven by the vacuum filler (3).

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the clip module (1) comprises a part (5) which is adapted to be rotatably driven by the vacuum filler (3).

3. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the vacuum filler comprises a part (8) which is adapted to be rotatably driven and by means of which the clip module (1) can be driven.

4. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the clip module (1) and the vacuum filler (3) have arranged between them a shaft (6), which is connected to the vacuum filler (3) for driving the clip module (1), said shaft (6) being preferably a horizontally extending shaft.

5. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** the clip module (1) comprise a displacer (7).

6. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** means are provided for inserting a thread or a loop when the clips are being set.

7. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 6, **characterized in that** a separator (16) is provided for separating respective portions.

8. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 7, **characterized in that** a servomotor (9) of the vacuum filler (3) can be used for driving the clip module (1), said servomotor (9) being

preferably adapted to be used for driving also other functions, such as the twisting off.

9. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 8, **characterized in that** a control unit (10) is provided for controlling the stuffing, the portioning and the clipping and, preferably, also the separating and the suspending.

10. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 9, **characterized in that** a twist-off unit (11) is provided adjacent to a stuffing means of the vacuum filler (3).

11. An apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 10, **characterized in that** a preferably automatic suspension unit (12) for selectively suspending the casing (4) is provided, said suspension unit (12) being controlled and/or driven preferably by the vacuum filler (3) and/or the clip module (1).

12. A method of applying to a casing (4) of any kind a clip (2) by means of a clip module (1), said method comprising the steps of:

stuffing the casing (4) with a pasty substance by means of a vacuum filler (3), separating the portions, applying a clip (2) by means of a clip module (1), **characterized in that** the clip module (1) is driven by the vacuum filler (3).

13. A method according to claim 12, **characterized in that** the portions are separated from one another.

14. A method according to claim 12 or 13, **characterized in that** the separation and the setting of clips take place, at least partly, at the same time.

15. A method according to one of the claims 12 to 14, **characterized in that** the casing (4) is suspended automatically when the clips have been set.

16. A method according to one of the claims 12 to 15,
characterized in that a thread or a loop is attached, preferably when
the clip (2) is being set.